

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 5, and 6 being amended, and Claim 7 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Modeste et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,852,800). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for signal processing, wherein a sound signal input is monitored for any possible clipping or unacceptable volume/quality characteristics along multiple points of a signal path. For instance, as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the present application, sound signal in each channel is monitored at METER in 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3 for determining whether the input sound signal at each point exceeds a predetermined value, and if so an alarm is displayed. By monitoring and allowing adjustment of signal characteristics along multiple points of a signal path, a technician can more quickly locate and determine the cause of clippings or like problems along a signal path.

Modeste does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of adjusting sound volume or sound quality at multiple metering points along a signal path (as recited in the amended claims). Rather, Modeste is directed to a graphical user interface for emulating the essential elements of a professional mixing console for mixing and modulating a digital audio data received from one or more sources (see Fig. 6 of Modeste). Fig. 6 of Modeste shows a clip meter 70 for each channel of sound signal, and a master meter 90. However, Modeste does not show monitoring and adjusting sound signals along multiple metering points along a signal path. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully submit that Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Modeste.

The Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Modeste. As discussed above, Modeste does not show monitoring and adjusting sound signals along multiple metering points along a signal path. Hence, since Claim 4 is dependent upon Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 is not anticipate by, nor obvious in view of, Modeste.

New Claim 7 has been added to further claim details of the present invention, and is respectfully submitted as in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the amended and added claims are respectfully requested, and an early allowance is solicited. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032029800. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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